

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT

Tropical Cyclone Wind Speed Probability Table

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Part I - Mission Connection

- a. Product Description - The Tropical Cyclone Wind Speed Probability Table (WSP) shows the probability that maximum 1-minute wind speed forecast for the tropical cyclone will be within one of seven intensity ranges/storm classifications through 72 hours. The maximum 1-minute wind speed forecasts correspond to the wind speed forecasts in the Tropical Cyclone Forecast/Advisories (TCM) product. The probabilities are based on National Hurricane Center (NHC) forecasts from 1988-1997. NHC issues this experimental product for tropical cyclones in the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific basins. This experimental product is also issued for subtropical storms.
- b. Purpose - National Weather Service (NWS) customer feedback indicates a desire for products in a graphical format.
- c. Audience - The product is used by the general public, other NWS National Centers and Weather Forecast Offices, other federal, state, and local government agencies; federal, state, and local emergency managers; maritime interests; and the media.
- d. Presentation Format - This is a text product provided in a table format.
- e. Feedback Method - We will solicit feedback through an existing NWS Feedback form and/or e-mail to the webmaster:

Technical and policy questions and comments for the WSP may be directed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Scott Kiser, W/OS21
Tropical Cyclone Program Manager
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13126
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3285

or e-mail questions and comments to: Scott.Kiser@noaa.gov

Part II - Technical Description

- a. Format & Science Basis - The WSP is a text product produced by hurricane forecasters providing a statistical intensity forecast for each tropical system out to 72 hours. The probabilities are based on NHC forecasts for the 10 year period from 1988-1997. The product is useful in that it helps to emphasize that deterministic tropical cyclone intensity forecasts must be

viewed in the larger context of the statistical uncertainties associated with intensity forecasts. For each official TCM product, a given tropical cyclone could become weaker or stronger than the official NHC forecast. The 7 wind speed categories are: dissipated, tropical depression, tropical storm, Category 1 hurricane, Category 2 hurricane, Category 3 hurricane, and Category 4/5 hurricane.

b. Product Availability - The product is disseminated at 0300, 0900, 1500, and 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) with valid position times corresponding to the advisory time. Since this product is produced only when there are tropical cyclones, an example is available at www.nhc.noaa.gov/graphics_astorm1.shtml. During times of tropical cyclones, the product is available via the Internet at www.nhc.noaa.gov under "Active Tropical Systems" link.